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THE RED CROSS

IN CHARGE OF

JANE A. DELANO, R.N.

Chairman of the National Committee on Red Cross Nursing Service

THE RED CROSS ANNUAL MEETING

The ninth annual meeting of the American National Red Cross took place at the New Willard Hotel, Washington, D. C., December 10, 1913.

The following representatives of state nurses' associations and state and local committees on Red Cross Nursing Service were among those present: Elizabeth Dewey, New York; Misses Mary H. Greenwood and Hilda M. Reinecke, Ohio; Misses Susan C. Francis and Sara M. Murray, Pennsylvania; Misses May Claypool and Carrie Honodel, District of Columbia; Helen Stephen, New Jersey; Anna C. Lockerby, New Hampshire.

At the morning session, presided over by Major-General George W. Davis, annual reports of the various Red Cross committees and boards were heard, including the report of the National Committee on Nursing Service, read by Jane A. Delano, chairman. Charles Jenkinson, special representative of the State Department and the Red Cross, gave a very interesting account of the withdrawal of American Refugees from Mexico. At 1 o'clock luncheon was served to delegates.

The afternoon session was brought to order by President Woodrow Wilson. A gold medal was bestowed by him, as president of the American Red Cross, on the chairman of the National Committee, in recognition of her services in the organization of the present nursing service. Gold and silver medals and certificates were presented to other Red Cross workers, both at home and abroad, in appreciation of their unselfishness and untiring efforts in the cause upon various occasions.

At the opening of the afternoon session it was announced that the \$400,000 appropriation of Congress for a Red Cross building in Washington, D. C., conditional upon the raising of an additional \$300,000, was now available, by reason of gifts by John D. Rockefeller, Mrs. Russell Sage, Mrs. E. H. Harriman and James Scrymser, aggregating the latter amount. The first \$100,000 of this amount was given by Mr. Scrymser, and the balance has been pledged by the others. It is hoped that the building to be erected as a permanent home of the American Red Cross will be ready for occupancy in 1915. A tablet to be placed in the building will bear the following dedication:

A MEMORIAL
BUILT BY
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES
AND
PATRIOTIC CITIZENS
TO
THE WOMEN OF THE NORTH
AND
THE WOMEN OF THE SOUTH
HELD IN LOVING MEMORY
BY
A NOW UNITED COUNTRY
AND
THAT THEIR LABORS TO MITIGATE THE SUFFERINGS
OF THE SICK AND WOUNDED IN WAR MAY BE FOREVER PERPETUATED
THIS MEMORIAL IS DEDICATED TO THE SERVICE OF
THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

Thanks were also formally expressed to Mr. Schiff, for a gift of \$100,000, the income from which is to be devoted to the Town and Country Nursing fund, and of a pledge by Mrs. Whitelaw Reid, chairman of the Town and Country Nursing Committee, of \$2,500 annually for the same purpose.

"Flood Relief in Dayton" was the subject of a paper read by Dr. Edward T. Devine; Charles C. Rosewater spoke of "The Omaha Tornado;" Hon. William B. Wilson, Secretary of Labor, spoke of "Red Cross First Aid Among Miners;" Mrs. Whitelaw Reid read a paper on "Town and Country Nursing;" Dr. Livingston Farrand told of the Red Cross Christmas Seal and its purpose; and Mrs. William K. Draper described the relief work incident to the fire on board the steamer *Volturmo*.

At 7.30 p.m. there was an informal conference of the National Committee with delegates and nurses representing state nurses' associations and state and local committees present at the annual meeting, at the home of the chairman of the National Committee, Jane A. Delano. Delegates to the annual meeting were entertained at 9 p.m. at a reception at the home of Miss Mabel T. Boardman.

President Wilson was reelected president of the American Red Cross; the other officers were also reelected.

The report of the chairman of the National Committee on Nursing Service read at the annual meeting of the Red Cross included an outline of the activities and work of the nursing service of the Red Cross during the year, reports of which have from time to time appeared in the JOURNAL. The chairman stated that meetings of the National Committee were held at Atlantic City, June 26, and in Washington, D. C., December 9.

Several changes have taken place in the personnel of the National Committee since the last annual report. Major Robert U. Patterson,

Medical Corps, U.S.A., has been appointed to succeed Major Charles Lynch, who resigned from the committee owing to his transfer to the Philippines. Georgia M. Nevins, who has served on the committee since its creation, has also resigned, and in her place has been appointed Mrs. Lenah S. Higbee, superintendent Navy Nurse Corps. Julia C. Stimson of St. Louis and Mary E. Gladwin of Ohio have also been appointed by the War Relief Board to fill vacancies on the committee. The committee in full is as follows: Jane A. Delano, chairman; Mabel T. Boardman; Mrs. William K. Draper; Major R. U. Patterson; Dr. T. W. Richards; Dr. William Welch; Mrs. Frederick Tice; Emma M. Nicols; Alma E. Wrigley; Mrs. Whitelaw Reid; Anna C. Maxwell; Isabel McIsaac; Mrs. Lenah S. Higbee; Mary E. Gladwin, and Julia C. Stimson.

A member of the Army Nurse Corps, Anna Reeves, has been detailed by the Surgeon-General of the Army to assist in the record work of the office of the National Committee. This will add to the efficiency of the service and allow the chairman more time for constructive work. There are at present over 4200 enrolled Red Cross nurses, and local committees are organized in practically all of the large nursing centers in this country. The advice of the state and local committees, appointed primarily for the work of enrollment of nurses, has been found to be of great assistance in the organization of the Town and Country Nursing Service. In the development of the classes of instruction for women reliance will be placed upon these committees for suggestions as to instructors and examiners from among the enrolled nurses.

During the past year the efficiency of the Red Cross Nursing Service has been tested both by the chaos following storm and flood and under the strict discipline of army encampment, and it has been demonstrated that Red Cross nurses can be quickly mobilized and thoroughly relied upon. Over 400 Red Cross nurses were assigned to duty during the year, rendering service in Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana and West Virginia, incident to the flood of March 24; in Omaha, after the tornado of last March; at the Veterans' Reunion at Gettysburg in July; and on the occasion of parades, ceremonies and celebrations in Washington, D. C., Cleveland, Detroit, and other cities. Five enrolled Red Cross nurses, two of them members of the Army Nurse Corps, were also on duty aboard the transport *Buford* at the time of the removal of American refugees from the west coast of Mexico.

The War Relief Board of the American Red Cross placed the matter of the organization of classes of instruction for women under this committee a year ago. This instruction includes at present lessons in first aid, and elementary hygiene and home care of the sick. A lack of suit-

ble textbooks, except in first aid, hampered the work of this department, but during the summer a text-book on elementary hygiene and home care of the sick was prepared by the chairman of the National Committee and Isabel McIsaac, and the work will now go forward. Some classes have already completed the course of fifteen lessons; several are now receiving instruction; while many classes are in the process of organization.

Mrs. Whitelaw Reid, chairman of the committee on Town and Country Nursing, gave a report of the first year's work. She spoke of the change in name from "Rural" to "Town and Country Nursing Service," in order that small communities, not strictly rural, might more consistently be included within its scope, the nurses to be known as Red Cross visiting nurses. At this writing nurses appointed under this service may be found in Vermont, Massachusetts, Ohio, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky and South Carolina, nineteen altogether, and the number is increasing. The size of the communities where these nurses are at work varies from a few hundred scattered families to a population of 25,000, varying as diversely in environment, in customs and conditions of living. The nurses are employed by Visiting Nurse Committees, Nursing Associations, Red Cross Chapters, Public Health Leagues, Civic Clubs and Anti-Tuberculosis Societies. Prospects of building up a Neighborhood Center around the visiting nursing activity are imminent in connection with several affiliated organizations.

Mrs. Reid enumerated the visiting nurse associations which had assisted in the preparation of some of the applicants for Red Cross Visiting Nursing, and mentioned particularly the short course offered by Teachers College in coöperation with Henry Street Settlement, the New York Department of Health and Northern Westchester District Nursing Association, and the fact that other courses would soon be available.

The effort made by the Russell Sage Foundation to stimulate the interest of the Red Cross in the health situation of the southern mountains, by sending a Red Cross visiting nurse on an educational trip through several counties in Alabama last September, and the preparation of an exhibit for the Town and Country Nursing Service portraying the work of a visiting nurse in her daily round of visits by photographs and charts, recently on exhibition at the International Congress of Farm Women, were touched upon in this report.

The work of the service has developed to such an extent that the appointment of a supervisor of Red Cross visiting nurses will be made within a few weeks.